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Subject: Morning Clips - Thursday, October 3, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: SC Mobilizing To Fight Automatic Military Cuts

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=T2cCdY0I

Jeff Wilkinson

A task force appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to protect and promote the state's military bases plans to survey each member of the S.C. congressional delegation to see where they stand on huge, automatic cuts to the military required by last year's debt ceiling fight. Military boosters want the delegation to present a united front in an attempt to preserve billions of dollars at stake in South Carolina's economy if the cuts go through as planned. Called sequestration, the \$600 billion in automatic cuts - cuts the Pentagon has said would be crippling - are set for Jan. 2 unless Congress finds another way to reduce the budget. The same amount of automatic cuts would occur in domestic spending.

Note: "The last thing we need to be doing is cutting any kind of military funding," she said in a telephone interview with The State after the meeting. "The commanders are right: We need ... to make sure our delegation speaks with one voice."

The State: Haley drops effort to extradite Dusten Brown from Oklahoma in Veronica case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131002/PC16/131009874/1006/haley-drops-effort-to-extradite-dusten-brown-from-oklahoma-in-veronica-case>

Glenn Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday dropped efforts to bring Dusten Brown to South Carolina to face a felony charge for not promptly relinquishing custody of his 4-year-old biological daughter, Veronica, to her adoptive parents from James Island. Less than 24 hours before Brown was to appear in an Oklahoma courtroom to contest his extradition, Haley sent a letter to Sooner State Gov. Mary Fallin withdrawing her demand that Brown be shipped to South Carolina to face a charge of custodial interference. Fallin's support for extraditing Brown waned after he handed over Veronica to Matt and Melanie Capobianco on Sept. 23. Haley's staff and Fallin's office had been consulting in recent days on how to resolve the matter.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Government restructuring is Job No. 1

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131003/PC1002/131009850/1021/government-restructuring-is-job-no-1>

Sen. Vincent Sheheen

It's time to take another giant step in reforming South Carolina's state government to improve accountability for the hardworking people of our state. Over the last few years, South Carolina has gone backwards in so many areas — we're now one of the toughest places in the nation to earn a living and achieve the American dream, while our government has failed on its most basic functions. But one of the places where we are moving forward is in modernizing our state government in an effort to improve accountability. Last year, I introduced S. 22, a restructuring bill to overhaul and reform South Carolina's legislative and executive branches.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Columbia's Strong Mayor Wouldn't Have Unchecked Power

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1bxu3S9J

Warren Bolton

As much as I want to see a strong mayor lead Columbia, even I wouldn't welcome the all-powerful czar some people are suggesting would occupy the city's top elected position if voters approve the change Dec.

3. To hear some talk, the mayor would be so dominant that City Council would be powerless, neighborhood leaders would have no voice and African-Americans and poor people would have substantially less influence. There is this, I believe misplaced, feeling among some that an empowered mayor would have his own agenda and only do the bidding of powerful interests while dismissing neighborhoods and residents.

Times and Democrat: Cooler heads must prevail in Washington

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/cooler-heads-must-prevail-in-washington/article_e39f0e74-2bda-11e3-a4c6-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Government shutdown; OUR OPINION: Political game of chicken stands to hurt Americans. Tempers and frustrations flared in Congress on the eve of the August recess, according to a report then by The Associated Press. "Have senators sit down and shut up, OK," Majority Leader Harry Reid said during one debate, addressing freshman Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin, who was presiding over the Senate, but in an uncharacteristic loud voice aimed at chatting colleagues. "It's unfair ... it's just not polite," the Nevada Democrat added, referring to Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who had been recognized to speak on a highways and housing bill about to be blocked.

Aiken Standard: Shutdown injected with gamesmanship

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131003/AIK0201/131009878/1018/AIK02/editorial-shutdown-injected-with-gamesmanship>

Editorial

"Sorry, we're closed." That's essentially the message now posted to the White House's website in wake of the on-going government shutdown. "Due to Congress's failure to pass legislation to fund the government," the website's home page reads, "updates to this account will be limited." At first glance, it almost looks as if the page has been hacked. The message comes across as so politicized and tinged with partisanship that it requires a double take. But apparently that really is the message the White House wants disseminated to the public. Through the post, Obama staffers are essentially saying that if information on the White House website is out of date, blame it on Congress.

Post and Courier: Storming the barricades

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131003/PC1002/131009846/1021/storming-the-barricades>

Editorial

On the first day of the government shutdown, World War II veterans were greeted at the nation's capital by metal barricades, police tape and National Park Service employees to prevent them from visiting the open-air World War II Memorial on the Mall. And they responded as Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe did at Bastogne, with a collective "Nuts!" to the federal functionaries. Or they might as well have, by their action. The veterans, in their 80s and 90s, breached the barriers and advanced into the Memorial. Some moved with canes and walkers, others in wheelchairs. Abashed Park Service employees stepped aside.

Greenville News: Furman-GHS partnership will benefit Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131003/OPINION/310030009/Editorial-Furman-GHS-partnership-will-benefit-Upstate>

Editorial

As more demands are placed on the healthcare field and more professionals are needed for a growing number of health-related jobs, it's increasingly important to attract young students to these jobs and to the education needed to do them. A new academic partnership between Furman University and the Greenville Health System can help create this pipeline of healthcare workers and equally important, ensure that many of them will remain in the Upstate where they are needed. Furman will become the primary undergraduate partner for the Greenville Health System. Through the agreement Furman will develop innovative programs for undergraduate students, and those students will benefit from hands-on experiences at one of the Southeast's largest health systems. Students will work in clinical and non-clinical settings.

Island Packet: Authority to set school tax rate means just what it says

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/02/2717589/authority-to-set-school-tax-rate.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Fourteenth Circuit Judge Carmen Mullen made the right call in a lawsuit over the tax rate set for the Jasper County School District. The law is clear that the legal authority to set the rate lies with Jasper County Council, not the school board. To say that the school board determines how much the district spends and County Council merely sets the tax rate to bring in that amount defeats the purpose of county oversight.

Why bother if that's the case? Just let the school board set the rate.

South Carolina news:

McClatchy Bureau: SC lawmakers giving away or withholding pay during shutdown

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/02/3016227/some-lawmakers-giving-away-or.html#storylink=cpy>

Maria Recio

In a show of solidarity with furloughed government workers, dozens of members of Congress announced this week that they are having their paychecks withheld or are donating the money to charity during the shutdown. The gesture crosses party lines, with lawmakers like Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, one of the first to say he would give his salary to charity – “I intend to donate my salary to charity for each day the government is shut down,” Cruz said, as well as Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., who told constituents that she would do so as well for as long as the government is closed. “Congress should never play political games with the most basic function of keeping the government running,” Hagan wrote in her newsletter.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry starting to reel from federal shutdown

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131002/PC16/131009876/1006/ripple-effect-starting-to-hurt-shutdown-hits-more-than-federal-workers>

Bo Petersen and Schuyler Kropf

Biologist Louis Burnett had to move his lab students to a conference room across the parking lot at Fort Johnson. His federal lab, animals and cell cultures are under lock and key. Burnett's dilemma is a case example of the ripple effect of the ongoing federal shutdown. As the shutdown enters its third day, the clock keeps ticking insistently for any number of people who don't work for the federal government but find themselves on the outs because of the political standoff. Burnett is a research professor at the College of Charleston. But like others in a cadre of college and state researchers, he collaborates on studies, shares office space and makes use of the equipment at the Hollings Marine Lab and the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Some lawmakers donating pay to charities during government shutdown

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131002/ARTICLES/310021031/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Some-lawmakers-donating-pay-to-charities-during-government-shutdown>

Lynne P. Shackelford

Dozens of federal lawmakers announced plans Wednesday to refuse pay, or donate their salaries to charity, as the government shutdown goes into its third day. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) announced he would donate his salary to the Wounded Warrior project, and Rep. Mick Mulvaney, who represents South Carolina's Fifth Congressional district, said in a statement that he has asked the Chief Administrative Officer to withhold his pay until the shutdown is resolved.

The State: Government Shutdown May Affect Those Buying, Selling Homes In SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UuqKTcYT

Cassie Cope

Even though some government housing loans are still available during the federal government shutdown, the government paperwork required for some mortgage lenders may hold up those trying to buy a home. Government offices shuttered and many services dried up Tuesday after the budget standoff in Congress. Because of far-reaching, federal financial and consumer safety checks required in the lending industry, the mortgage business could come to a grinding halt. If the shutdown continues, some home buyers may not be able to close on their houses.

The State: Clean Energy On Upswing, Employs 18,000 In SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dJTlipTI

Roddie Burris

Clean energy continued to claw its way into greater awareness in South Carolina last year, a new report shows, adding jobs and growing revenue. A survey of 161 firms showed employment in the state's clean energy sector in 2012 rose 3.6 percent, or more than twice as fast as jobs in the state's overall economy, according to the S.C. Clean Energy Business Alliance. Nearly 18,000 full-time employees worked in the upstart clean energy industries in the state this year, the Alliance's annual report, South Carolina Clean Energy Jobs Census, showed. The clean energy sector also generated more than \$813 million in gross revenue in the state in 2012, an 11.9 percent increase over 2011, the report said.

Greenville News: S.C. probation agency contradicts legislative audit

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131003/NEWS09/310030008/S-C-probation-agency-contradicts-legislative-audit>

Tim Smith

Three months after a critical legislative audit, officials of the state's probation agency say they have accounted for how they spent \$3.8 million in sentencing reform funds. But their explanation is at odds with the findings of the Legislative Audit Council, and some lawmakers remain unconvinced the agency spent the money as intended. At the crux of the issue is whether the state Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services used much of the money to expand its ranks of probation agents as the Legislature expected, or whether, as some lawmakers and the director of the LAC contend, the department used the money to replace staff.

Island Packet: In face of sequester and shutdown, training, new jets said key to base survival

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/02/2717953/in-face-of-sequester-and-shutdown.html#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

The pivotal training role played by Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and the impending arrival of the Joint Strike Fighters at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort will work in the area's favor in the face of the automatic spending cuts and the ongoing government shutdown, panelists at a University of South Carolina Beaufort session said Wednesday. But Moderator Stephen Sorett told the audience of about 25 at the Hilton Head Gateway Campus that future sequester cuts could threaten the number of F-35 fighters produced, which could ultimately lead to a diminished role for the air station. The government shutdown also factors into the area's economic future.

Local News:

Sun News: More facades coming down in Georgetown

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/10/02/3748119/more-facades-coming-down-in-georgetown.html>

Amanda Kelley

More facades along Front Street in Georgetown will be coming down, according to the city's administrator. The facades that still stand where a row of buildings stood before last week's fire will be taken down on Thursday by a contractor, said City Administrator Chris Carter. Two of the facades fell on Sunday and those that remain are not stable, Carter said. In total seven buildings were destroyed Sept. 25 in the 700 block of Front Street. The blaze forced 130 people out of work while displacing eight or nine families living in the apartments above the buildings.

Aiken Standard: Citizens Advisory Board cancels meetings due to shutdown

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131003/AIK0101/131009864/1007/AIK0101/citizens-advisory-board-cancels-meetings-due-to-shutdown>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site's Citizen Advisory Board – or CAB – is canceling two upcoming committee meetings, a result of the current federal government shutdown. The board is canceling its Oct. 8 meetings of its Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation committee and the Strategic & Legacy Management committee. "I got both an email and a call today," CAB Chairman Don Bridges said on Wednesday. "The Savannah River Operations Office indicated that funding is not yet established for the fiscal year for the CAB. Essentially, what they said is we are presently unfunded and a committee meeting such as this will require some funds."

The State: McLeese Stepping Down As Head Of Chamber

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UTIQ893C

Jeff Wilkinson

Ike McLeese, who has served as chief executive of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce since 1994, is stepping down at the end of the year. McLeese, 69, said his decision to reduce his duties to that of a consultant in military affairs was made in the early summer prior to a major heart attack he suffered Sept. 5. He is presently recovering at home and is scheduled for open heart surgery in two or three weeks, after he gets stronger, McLeese told The State in an extended interview at his Forest Acres home. "After 19 years, I needed to get off the 13-hour-a-day treadmill," said McLeese, who informed chamber officials and his staff in a conference call at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

National News:

New York Times: Obama Sets Conditions for Talks: Pass Funding and Raise Debt Ceiling

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/03/us/politics/congress-budget-battle.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Jackie Calmes

In their first meeting since a budget impasse shuttered many federal operations, President Obama told Republican leaders on Wednesday that he would negotiate with them only after they agreed to the funding needed to reopen the government and also to an essential increase in the nation's debt limit, without add-ons. The president's position reflected the White House view that the Republicans' strategy is failing. His meeting with Congressional leaders, just over an hour long, ended without any resolution. As they left, Republican and Democratic leaders separately reiterated their contrary positions to waiting reporters. The House speaker, John A. Boehner, Republican of Ohio, said Mr. Obama "will not negotiate," while the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, Democrat of Nevada, said Democrats would agree to spending at levels already passed by the House.

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